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What We Claim is:

- 1 1. A method of providing summaries of audio/video programming to a recipient,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 providing from a program source a streaming programming signal;
4 dividing programs into program segments each identified by index marks;
5 summarizing each program segment into corresponding summary segments
6 identified by similar index marks;
7 storing the summary segments in a storage medium;
8 accessing the summary segments by linking a recipient to the storage medium and
9 supplying the summary segments in lieu of program segments on demand of the
10 recipient.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, where the step of:
2 providing from a program source includes delivery of the streaming program to
3 the recipient by a broadband wired access link.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, where the step of:
2 providing a streaming program signal includes adhering to an MPEG-2 standard.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, where the step of:
2 accessing the summary segments includes setting timing marks in the program to
3 define summaries.

1 5. A method of processing programming to facilitate selection and delivery of
2 summaries of the programming to recipients of the programming, comprising the steps
3 of:
4 providing the programming to the recipient via a program channel;
5 applying index markers to the programming to divide the programming into
6 segments;
7 generating summary segments of parts of the programming segments and having
8 index markers corresponding to the index markers of the programming;
9 generating metadata files associated with a summary channel for delimiting
10 beginning and end of segments in the summary and program channels and including
11 indexing information for facilitating links between the programming segments and the
12 summary segments;
13 selecting a summary segment by activating a link between the programming
14 segment and the summary segment by utilizing a metadata file included with the
15 summary channel; and
16 transmitting a selected summary segment and associated metadata to the recipient
17 via a summary channel.

1 6. The method of claim 5, comprising a step of:
2 including the metadata file within a data stream included in a program stream according
3 to MPEG-2 standards.

1 7. The method of claim 5, comprising a step of:
2 including user data with each group of pictures corresponding to program
3 segments.

- 1 8. The method of claim 5, comprising a step of:
2 activating a link connection by a single physical command.
- 1 9. The method of claim 5, comprising a step of:
2 including in the step of generating summary segments a step of dynamically
3 generating summaries of live programming in real-time by dynamic editing software.
- 1 10. The method of claim 5, comprising a step of:
2 constructing the metadata file in XML language to define the message.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, comprising a step of:
2 the step of supplying includes providing a summary channel to transmit
3 summaries and summary segments to the recipient.
- 1 12. The method of clam 1, comprising a step of:
2 accessing by linking includes use of a one-way video hyperlink.
- 1 13. The method of clam 1, comprising a step of:
2 accessing by linking includes use of a two-way video hyperlink.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1, comprising the step of:
2 activating a link is by a single step action.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14, where by the step of:
2 activating a link is by a single step action that is a step of pushing a button on a
3 remote controller.
- 1 16. The method of claim 5, whereby the step of:
2 selecting by activating a link utilizes a one-way link.
- 1 17. The method of claim 5, whereby the step of:
2 selecting by activating a link utilizes a two-way link.

1 18. The method of claim 1, where the step of:
2 accessing the summary segments includes setting position marks in the program
3 to define summaries.

1 19. The method of claim 1, where the step of:
2 storing the summary segments uses a storage medium located at a user location.

1 20. The method of claim 1, where the step of:
2 storing the summary segments uses a storage medium integrated with a delivery
3 network.

1 21. The method of claim 13, whereby the step of:
2 accessing by linking by use of a two-way hyperlink includes a viewer viewing a
3 summary segment and selecting a link function during that summary segment whereby
4 control passes to a beginning of a corresponding program segment; and
5 passing control at a completion of the corresponding program segment to a
6 beginning of a next summary segment.

1 22. The method of claim 13, whereby the step of:
2 accessing by linking by use of a two-way hyperlink includes a viewer viewing a
3 program segment and selecting a link function during the program segment whereby
4 control passes a beginning of a corresponding summary segment; and
5 passing control at a completion of the corresponding summary segment to a
6 beginning of a next program segment.

1 23. The method of claim 1, further including a step of;
2 interrupting delivery of a program in response to an interrupt command delivered
3 over an interrupt channel I.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further including a step of:
2 recovering a summary of missed programming due to the interruption in delivery
3 in responsive to a resume command supplied over the I channel.

1 25. In the method of claim 24, wherein:
2 interacting with a control for providing a missed/interrupted program is by means
3 of a screen display responsive to a remote.

1 26. The method of claim 1 further including a step of:
2 providing programming control, via a program channel P, including a screen
3 display responsive to an interactive control of the user.

1 27. In a program delivery system, apparatus for delivery of summaries of
2 programming delivered to a recipient, comprising:
3 a source of programming of programs divided by indexes into program segments;
4 a transmission media for delivering a streaming program signal supplied by the
5 source;
6 a storage medium for storing program summary segments corresponding to each
7 of the program segments;
8 a control interface for enabling user requests for summaries; and
9 a metadata file included with the streaming program for defining corresponding
10 program and summary segments.

1 28. The program delivery system of claim 27, further comprising:
2 the storage medium being located integral to the transmission media of a public
3 network by which programming is delivered.

1 29. The program delivery system of claim 27, further comprising:

2 the storage medium being located in a STB at a co-location with a recipient of the
3 programming.

1 30. The program delivery system of claim 27, further comprising:

2 an interactive control for enabling a user to select summaries, including a screen
3 display permitting user entry of controls.

1 31. The program delivery system of claim 27, comprising:

2 a two-way link control allowing a user to control summary segment and program
3 segment selection while starting from a program segment and summary segment
4 respectively.